

30 Days Together
“Immanuel - God With Us”
#30daystogether

Day #7 – Dec. 2nd

Text: Genesis 3:14-15 (*with vs. 8-13 for added context*)

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” ¹¹ And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” ¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” ¹⁴ **So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”**

Devotion: Adam Peitsch

There’s a Christian rock band that I was a huge fan of when I was younger named Relient K, and they have a song called “I So Hate Consequences” that says: “And I so hate consequences / running from you is what my best defense is... / God, don't make me face up to this... / I hate these consequences cause I know that I let you down, and I don't want to deal with that”.

I think I can safely speak for all humans when I say that nobody truly likes dealing with the consequences of their own actions. There are certainly people who are better at dealing with it than others, but nobody *likes* when their actions catch up with them. That’s what happened to Adam and Eve in our reading for today. You know the story - God created all things, including man and woman, and gave them one rule: don’t eat from this one specific tree. Just the one. They didn’t know there would be consequences. They didn’t know what would happen - but God told them not to do it, and sure enough, they ate. The world has quite literally never been the same. God came to look for them, and they ran. They hid. They pointed fingers. They did everything except own up and admit their fault. And there were consequences that God pretty clearly spelled out, even to the point of exiling them from the beautiful garden he created for them.

But here’s what I really love about this story - God knew EVERYTHING. As soon as they ate, God knew that they did. And from the beginning, God offered mercy. He gave them a chance. He doesn’t come to the garden to accuse, He came and asked - giving Adam and Eve a chance to admit, to own up. Even as He punishes the serpent, even as He exiles Adam and Eve from the garden, He gives such a beautiful promise - “he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel”. God says to Adam and Eve, “look, you guys messed it up. You’re in trouble, and there are consequences - but I’m going to fix it. You brought pain, but I’m promising healing. Your sin caused brokenness, but I promise restoration to you.”

This Advent season, God is promising the same thing to you. We live sinful lives, we rebel, we run from God - and He runs to us. He gives hope, He gives mercy, He offers grace to us through His promised son. The song I mentioned earlier ends like this: “When I got tired of running from you / I stopped right there to catch my breath / there your words they caught my ears / You said, ‘I miss you son. Come home.’ “

God invites us to stop running, to admit our faults, own up to our mistakes. Because where God is, there is hope - and God is here. He comes to us this Advent season as we look ahead to Immanuel - God With Us.

Closing Prayer: Immanuel, Father in heaven, when we run, You run after us - thank you for chasing me down. When we hide, You seek us out - thank you for finding me. When we couldn’t save ourselves, You came to us, God With Us, to bring us home to You - thank you for giving us grace. Help me never to forget Your amazing love in my life, that I may always find hope in your promises to me. Amen.